

INTRODUCTION

Wildland fires are a part of the natural ecological cycle of forest ecosystems. However, as humans encroach on these forests, the risk of catastrophic disaster increases. These areas are known as the wildland urban interface. They can be sharp geographical edges or zones of ever increasing risk potential. Regardless, they pose a threat to human life and property. The National Fire Plan calls for reducing this risk through a variety of measures including the creation of local wildland urban interface fire mitigation plans. The Kootenai County Local Emergency Planning Committee received a grant to prepare a wildland urban interface fire mitigation plan to identify actions and priorities for reducing wildland fire risk.

The following plan is the culmination of six months of work conducted by the Kootenai County Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Planning Committee, a subcommittee of the Local Emergency Planning Committee. It includes a variety of measures designed to reduce the impact of wildland fires.

This plan is divided into seven sections beginning with this brief introduction. It is followed by a summary of the fire mitigation goals and actions for quick reference. Next is a description of the planning process. The individual goals and actions are listed with suggestions for who should complete the action, when it should be completed and the possible resources for completing the action. These sections are then followed by technical information and references. Finally, there are a series of appendices describing various data collected during the process.

No plan is complete until it is implemented. This document describes what can happen over the next several years to help reduce the damages caused by wildfire in the wildland urban interface. However, it is up to the community to insure that these actions are taken.